



UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

CHAIRMAN ADAM PUTNAM

TALKING POINTS: The First 100 Hours

OUR PRINCIPLE: *We are committed to fighting and winning the global war on terror, and we are determined to protect GOP-enacted policies that facilitated today's robust economic conditions.*

We will work with Democrats when it is in the best interest of the country; however, we recognize that there is no mandate for wholesale changes in economic policy that would wreck the strong economy, neither is there a mandate for a return to old school, tax-and-spend liberalism.

To the extent that Democrats made promises, we intend to hold them accountable. And accountability begins from Day One.

Pelosi deserves recognition. Nancy Pelosi's imminent election as the first woman Speaker in American history is a significant milestone; we should acknowledge it as such.

Protecting Americans by pursuing terrorists must remain our top priority. GOP-enacted policies of pursuing terrorists have prevented a domestic terrorist attack for the past five-and-a-half years. In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, Congress cannot waver in its commitment to winning the war on terror and ensuring our troops on the front lines have the tools they need.

Republican economic policies facilitated today's robust economy. Twelve years of Republican policies have led to strong economic growth, record low unemployment (4.5 percent) and millions of new jobs for working families (39 consecutive months of job gains). A wholesale revision of these proven policies would put our strong economy in jeopardy. We will work with Democrats when it is in the best interests of the country, but we will protect the GOP-enacted policies that fostered today's strong economic climate.

There is no mandate for old-school Democrat liberalism. We welcome cooperation from the dozens of Democrats who campaigned on conservative themes, particularly when their public statements conflict with those of old-guard, tax-and-spend liberal Democrats who chair virtually every committee in the House.

We will hold Democrats accountable for promises made. This begins with fiscal accountability from Day One; it extends to their broken promises to implement all the remaining 9/11 Commission recommendations and their reversal on meaningful earmark reform. It includes Pelosi's pledge for "accountability, honesty and openness at all levels of government."

Early broken promises are a troubling concern. We are concerned that Democrats have already reneged on their promise to implement all the 9/11 Commission recommendations. And we are equally disturbed by how secretive and restrictive the Democrat leadership has been in assembling its "Six for '06" package – not only with the public, but also with congressional Democrats, including their own committee chairmen.

Real reform necessitates open debate. Closed-door operations and secrecy are not typically conducive to "accountability, honesty and openness," and it contrasts strongly with the way Republicans initiated the *Contract with America* 12 years ago, when virtually every bill was debated and voted on in committee, and hundreds of amendments were considered and voted on throughout the process.